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HIV/AIDS

Since its first recognition in 1981, the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome or AIDS has become a major worldwide pandemic. Today, 26 years after the identification of its first case, AIDS still remains to be the most serious infectious disease challenge to the public health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that about one million people in the United States are living with HIV or AIDS. As per UNAIDS (joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) and WHO (World Health Organization), the global estimate of persons living with HIV stands at 33.2 million, 6800 persons becoming infected with HIV everyday, and over 5700 persons dying from AIDS daily.

AIDS is a Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) induced deficiency of cellular immunity characterized by opportunistic diseases including Pneumonia, Kaposi Sarcoma, tuberculosis etc. Clinically, the primary targets of the HIV after it enters human body are CD4 cells or T Cells. The infection results in progressive decline of CD4 lymphocyte count from the normal range of 600 to 1500 per cubic millimeter of blood to that of below 200 – a stage usually declared as AIDS where even a simple infection could pose a critical problem. HIV takes long interval, usually 10-12 years, between initial infection and the onset of serious symptoms or AIDS.

The gravity of this disease is further aggravated by the social stigmas associated with the disease – especially about the transmission of HIV. Ongoing research has revealed a great deal of valuable medical, scientific, and public health information about the HIV and AIDS and the ways it could be transmitted. Since the HIV does not survive well in the environment, the possibility of environmental transmission is remote. Similarly, many other commonly held notions in the society like household transmission of HIV, transmission from co-workers during routine work, kissing, biting, saliva, sweat, tears, spit, air, and insects have no scientific evidence to their support. HIV is primarily transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal fluid, or breast milk. The virus is present in different amount in different bodily fluids. The highest amount of HIV is in blood. The most common way of HIV transmission is through unprotected sex with an infected person. Other possible ways of the virus transmission are sharing needle or syringe with a HIV positive person, sharing razors or toothbrushes, and

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transmission from a HIV positive mother to her child.

HIV/AIDS is a global health crisis and the entire world is trying to beat this pandemic. The United States has taken the lead in this direction and has made the fight against HIV/AIDS a top priority. USAID (United States Agency for International Development) has funded almost \$6 billion since inception of its international HIV/AIDS program in 1986. In 2003, Bush administration launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) – a \$15 billion mobilization to help support prevention, treatment, and care programs in some of the hardest hit countries around the world. As of September 30, 2007, this plan was supporting life-saving antiretroviral treatment for approximately 1.36 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the 15 focus countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. On May 30, 2007, the President announced his proposal to double America's initial \$15 billion commitment for combating HIV/AIDS through PEPFAR. While proclaiming December 1, 2007 as World AIDS Day, President George W. Bush reiterated the U.S. commitment in support of this noble struggle – fighting and preventing HIV/AIDS in America and around the world.

Despite improved treatment options and better access to care, to date there is no cure or vaccine for HIV/AIDS. Once infected with HIV, a person remains infected for life. That means they will always have HIV in their body. However, an array of antiretroviral therapies and other services have proven effective against HIV/AIDS and have increased life expectancy of HIV-infected persons. Antiretroviral therapy suppresses the replication of the HIV in the body. A combination of several antiretroviral agents known as highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has been found to be quite effective in reducing the viral load and thereby helping the immune system to recover from the HIV infection and improve CD4 or T-cell count, which can significantly prolong and improve life. An HIV/AIDS diagnosis today is not an immediate death sentence. Prevention and proper education about the disease, thus, remains the most effective measure to put a check on this epidemic.

The articles included in this section attempt to generate general awareness about the gravity of HIV/AIDS so that informed decisions could be taken in the light of scientific data and risk behaviors could be avoided.

For additional information, a webliography is presented here for your use. The inclusion of Internet sites other than those of the U.S. government should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein. The websites are current as of publication date and are subject to change at any time.

AIDS.gov – The official U.S. government site for information about HIV and AIDS
<http://www.aids.gov>

AIDSinfo – HIV-AIDS Treatment Information
<http://aidsinfo.nih.gov>

The Body – The Complete HIV/AIDS Resource
<http://www.thebody.com>

California Department of Health Services – Office of AIDS
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS/>

Center for HIV Information
<http://chi.ucsf.edu/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – HIV-AIDS Fact Sheets
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/index.htm>

eMedicineHealth – HIV/AIDS
http://www.emedicinehealth.com/hiv aids/article_em.htm

Florida Department of Health – HIV/AIDS
http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/aids/index.html

Global Health Council – HIV-AIDS
http://globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=227

Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1-Infected Adults and Adolescents
http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/contentfiles/AdultandAdolescentGL_PDA.pdf

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation – HIV-AIDS Policy Research, Analysis, Media & Public Health Partnerships
<http://www.kff.org/hiv aids/index.cfm>

Human Rights Watch – HIV/AIDS and Human Rights
http://hrw.org/doc/?t=hiv aids&document_limit=0,2

Illinois Department of Public Health – HIV/AIDS
<http://www.idph.state.il.us/aids/default.htm>

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)
<http://www.iavi.org>

MayoClinic – HIV/AIDS
<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/hiv-aids/DS00005>

MedlinePlus – AIDS
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/aids.html>

MedlinePlus – Patient Education Tutorials – HIV and AIDS
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorials/aids/htm/index.htm>

National HIV Testing Resources
<http://hivtest.org>

National Institute of Health – AIDS
<http://health.nih.gov/result.asp/15>

National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) – HIV, STD and Tuberculosis (TB)
<http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/index.asp>

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) – HIV/AIDS
<http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/research/topics/HIV>

New York State Department of Health – HIV/AIDS
<http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids>

Office of AIDS Research (OAR)
<http://www.oar.nih.gov/>

TeensHealth -- HIV and AIDS
http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/infections/stds/std_hiv.html

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
<http://www.hhs.gov/>

U.S. Department of State – HIV/AIDS Initiative Resources
http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/HIV_AIDS/initiative_resources.html

U.S. Department of State – HIV/AIDS
http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html

U.S. Department of State – President Bush's HIV/AIDS Initiatives
http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/HIV_AIDS/hiv_aids_initiative.html

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – HIV and AIDS
<http://www.fda.gov/oashi/aids/hiv.html>

U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration – HIV/AIDS Programs
<http://hab.hrsa.gov>

United Nations Development Programme – HIV/AIDS
<http://www.undp.org/hiv>

The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
<http://www.pepfar.gov>

University of California – Center for AIDS Prevention Studies
<http://www.caps.ucsf.edu>

University of Illinois Medical Center – HIV/AIDS
http://uimc.discoveryhospital.com/main.php?t=symptom&p=hiv_aids

USAID Health – HIV/AIDS
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/aids

Washington State Department of Health – HIV/AIDS Programs
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CFH/hiv.htm>

WebMD – HIV and AIDS Health Center
<http://www.webmd.com/hiv-aids/default.htm>

The White House – President's HIV/AIDS Initiatives
http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/hiv_aids

World Health Organization – HIV Infections
http://www.who.int/topics/hiv_infections/en

1. AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE: DECEMBER 2007

UNAIDS/WHO, December 2007, 50 p.

http://data.unaids.org/pub/EPISlides/2007/2007_epiupdate_en.pdf

This latest annual update on AIDS epidemic, jointly produced by UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) and WHO (World Health Organization), captures the current developments in the global AIDS epidemic. It presents the most recent estimates of the epidemic's scope and human toll with the help of maps and regional summaries. Further, it looks into the new trends in this epidemic's evolution.

2. AIDS WINS THIS ROUND

By Alice Park. *Time*, v. 170, no. 21, November 19, 2007, pp. 55-55.

Alice Park describes the global efforts towards development of an AIDS vaccine. The newest in the line, being investigated by Merck, has failed to provide protection against HIV. Merck, the developer of this vaccine, has released an analysis of the trial. Although this latest vaccine failed to perform to its expectations, its failure has provided much needed insight to the scientific community that could lead to success in future.

3. THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL SUPPORT ON MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES AMONG ADOLESCENTS WITH PARENTS WITH HIV/AIDS

By Sung-Jae Lee, et al. *American Journal of Public Health*, v. 97, no. 10, October 2007, pp. 1820-1826.

Adolescents whose parents are either infected with or have died of HIV/AIDS are subjected to the stigmas associated with poverty and the disease. To establish the association between social support and mental and behavioral outcomes among such adolescents, a study was carried out, which convincingly concludes that more social support significantly lowers the levels of depression and conduct problems. Findings underscore the complex relations between social support and mental behavioral outcomes among adolescents affected by HIV/AIDS establishing the importance of increasing social support to reduce negative outcomes in such cases.

4. FOCUSING HIV PREVENTION ON THOSE MOST LIKELY TO TRANSMIT THE VIRUS

By Gary R. West, et al. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, v. 19, no. 4, August 2007, pp. 275-288.

Although some success has been achieved in providing care and treatment to those infected with HIV, the infected persons in the developing countries, placed on treatment in 2005, continue to infect many others. This necessitates more effective prevention programs that focus interventions on those most at risk for HIV transmission (MART). Those HIV-infected individuals who have high viral loads and high behavioral risk need to be addressed in the new emerging HIV prevention programs. This article explains how emerging HIV testing technologies and creative socio-behavioral approaches can be integrated to locate MART individuals and intervene rapidly to prevent HIV transmission.

5. GOOD POLITICS, BAD POLITICS: THE EXPERIENCE OF AIDS

By Peter Piot, Sarah Russell and Heidi Larson. *American Journal of Public Health*, v. 97, no. 11, November 2007, pp. 1934-1936.

This editorial essay investigates the impact of political mandate and synergy of political leadership and science in improving the public health - focusing on the politics and policies around AIDS. Global response to AIDS has been highly politicized and provides the most striking contemporary example of how intertwined politics, policy, and public health are. The experience of the AIDS response – both good political action as well as the challenges of bad politics and denial – has important lessons for the public health community.

6. GRADATIONS OF RESEARCHERS' OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE ANCILLARY CARE FOR HIV/AIDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

By Henry S. Richardson. *American Journal of Public Health*, v. 97, no. 11, November 2007, pp. 1956-1961.

The centrality of HIV/AIDS studies, the extent of the researcher-participant interaction, and the cost relative to the study budget are the three principal factors that affect the stringency of medical researchers' obligation to provide antiretroviral treatment (ART) to participants in non-HIV/AIDS studies that are conducted in developing

countries. The article analyses the ethical issue of researcher's obligations to provide HIV/AIDS treatment as ancillary care in such cases. It provides research sponsors and research ethics committees with well-grounded, gradable, and context-sensitive factors that can be used to determine in which cases ancillary-care considerations call for non-HIV/AIDS researchers to address the HIV/AIDS needs of their study participants.

7. HIV IN INDIA -- THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

By Robert Steinbrook. The New England Journal of Medicine, v. 356, no. 12, March 22, 2007, p. 1197.

The third National AIDS Control Program (NACP-III) of India is an ambitious effort to reduce the number of new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections. Its goal is to stop and reverse the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India over the next 5 years. This program has a budget of about \$2.6 billion, two thirds of which is earmarked for prevention and one sixth for treatment. Clearly, prevention remains the focus of India's AIDS control strategy. Other components of the strategy include expanded HIV counseling and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, broad communication of information on prevention, promotion of condom use, improved access to safe blood, and preventing mother to child transmission.

8. HOT TOPICS IN PEDIATRIC HIV/AIDS

By Ana M. Alvarez and Mubeen H. Rathore. Pediatric Annals, v. 36, no. 7, July 2007, pp. 423-432.

Successful perinatal prevention strategies in the United States have led to a decreasing number of infected infants and young children in the country – one of the biggest achievements in the battle against HIV. On the other hand, the number of adolescents acquiring the HIV infection through high-risk behaviors is increasing. Adolescents are currently at the center of the epidemic. Pediatric HIV/AIDS in the United States is thus becoming a disease of adolescents and calls for novel approaches in incorporating new biomedical and behavioral advances.

9. THE IMPACT OF AN AIDS VACCINE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A NEW MODEL AND INITIAL RESULTS

By John Stover, et al. Health Affairs, v. 24, no. 4, July/August 2007, pp. 1147-1158.

Previous efforts to model the impact of AIDS vaccines that were limited to high-risk populations focusing on a specific geographic setting usually concentrating on a narrow range of strategies. The model presented here, by contrast, allows investigators to examine a wide range of strategies and draws on readily available, country-specific data that can reproduce the key dynamics of the epidemic in any locale at the regional, national or global levels. This model improves on previous efforts by examining combinations of three anticipated mechanisms of vaccine action - reduced susceptibility via a protective immune response, reduced infectiousness, and slower progression to AIDS.

10. LET'S UNITE AGAINST HIV-AIDS

By Laura Bush. The Washington Post, December 1, 2007. p. A.15.

While describing the status of HIV/AIDS in the United States and beyond, the First Lady of the United States highlights the importance of getting tested for HIV. All of us should know our HIV status. Another important facet of the epidemic is that we must break the stigma and extend support for people living with HIV. On the occasion of the World AIDS Day, the First Lady pleads for turning the tide against HIV/AIDS.

11. THE SUN ALWAYS COMES OUT AFTER IT RAINS: UNDERSTANDING POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH IN HIV CAREGIVERS

By Susan Cadell. Health & Social Work, v. 32, no. 3, August 2007, pp. 169-176.

This optimistic research explores the changes in caregivers' lives after caring for someone who had died of complications related to HIV/AIDS. Although negative outcomes are usually focused, this work looks into the positive changes in caregivers' lives. Data derived from the interview of fifteen participants with different levels of posttraumatic growth were analyzed. Themes of distress, growth, humor, support, spirituality, fear of death, and the intertwining of support and spirituality emerged from the data. The research is an important contribution to the growing concern about the strengths and positive outcomes in coping.

12. THE TOLL OF AIDS: WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT THIS GLOBAL KILLER

By Stephanie Fitzgerald. *Current Health* 2, v. 34, no. 4, December 2007, pp. 8-11.

This article illustrates the basic information about the AIDS epidemic – the prevalence of the disease, its cause, agent, and living with AIDS. The disease spreads though the spread of its causative agent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is a very fast spreading virus that travels through infected blood and other bodily fluids. The article also talks about the risk behaviors and underlines the fact that disease does not spread by "who you are," rather "what you do."

13. U.S. INTERNATIONAL HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA SPENDING: FY2004-FY2008

By Tiaji Salaam-Blyther. *CRS Report for Congress*, September 11, 2007, 9 p.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/96496.pdf>

This Congressional Research Service (CRS) report takes stock of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). President George Bush on January 28, 2003 had proposed to spend \$15 billion over five years to combat three diseases – HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria through PEPFAR. The President's FY2008 budget request includes about \$5.8 billion for global HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria efforts. If Congress fully funds the President's FY2008 request, the United States will have exceeded the \$15 billion originally sought for PEPFAR. Some \$19.2 billion would be spent on fighting the three diseases from FY2004 to FY2008. The report reviews the U.S. appropriations to the three diseases between FY2004 and FY2007.

14. USE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR PLANNING HIV PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS FOR HIGH-RISK YOUTHS

By Catherine G. Geanuracos, et al. *American Journal of Public Health*, v. 97, no. 11, November 2007, pp. 1974-1981.

The application of geographic information systems (GIS) for public health intervention planning is a relatively new concept. Connect to Protect – a researcher-community collaboration working in 15 cities to reduce HIV infection among youths – developed GIS databases of local health, crime, and demographic data to assess the geographic epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections and HIV risk among adolescents. This paper draws on the Connect to Protect project's

experience and describes the process and limitations of data acquisition, analysis, and mapping in the development of structural interventions, demonstrating how program planners can use this technology to inform and improve planning decisions.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

15. ENERGY NATIONALISM

By Peter Behr. *CQ Global Researcher*, v. 1, no. 7, July 2007, p. 153.

Russia's recovery in oil output, which followed its devastating collapse after the fall of the Soviet Union, coincided with the explosive growth in China's and India's demand for the same. Having surpassed Saudi Arabia as the world's largest oil producer, Russia has enough power to intimidate its neighbors in Europe that depend on it for energy. Meanwhile, Venezuela is using its vast oil and gas reserves to promote socialist revolution at home and throughout the Western Hemisphere. The long-term sustainability of this policy is in question as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is spending more on social programs than on maintaining and expanding oil production capacity.

16. THE GREAT LEAP BACKWARD?

By Elizabeth C. Economy. *Foreign Affairs*, v. 86, no. 5, p. 38.
<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20070901faessay86503/elizabeth-c-economy/the-great-leap-backward.html>

Economy, director for Asia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, says that China's environmental quality is deteriorating rapidly as local officials, ignoring central government environmental regulation, press for continued rapid economic expansion. Besides poisoning China's air and water and turning China's land to desert, Chinese polluters are aggravating global climate change by indiscriminate and illegal logging in tropical rainforests, degrading the oceans and producing vast quantities of coal-fired power plant emissions, which are circling the globe. By ignoring the environmental mess much longer, the Chinese could bring their remarkable economic expansion to a halt. Foreign governments and non-governmental organizations need to press China to clean up its act, institute necessary political reforms and combat corruption.

17. HOW CAPITALISM IS KILLING DEMOCRACY

By Robert B. Reich. *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2007, pp. 38-43.

The fortunes of capitalism and democracy are beginning to diverge, says the author, Secretary of Labor during the Clinton administration. Free markets have brought unprecedented prosperity to many, but their expansion also has produced widening inequalities, heightened job insecurity and environmental hazards, he notes. Democracy, designed to allow citizens to address these issues, has been eroded by forces driving the supercharged global economy. The erosion of democracy derives from our desire to get bargains and high returns, desire which trumps our civil and social concerns. In effect, citizens and governments leave it up to corporations to set the rules of the game. Corporations, under pressure from fierce global competition, exploit and abuse the democratic process. They increasingly lobby and even bribe democratically elected representatives and government officials in self-interest, pushing public concerns aside. What's needed, Reich says, is a clear delineation of the boundary between global capitalism and democracy, between the economic game and the rule-setting process.

18. TAR SANDS FEVER!

By Dan Woyillowicz. *World Watch*, v. 20, no. 5, September/October 2007, pp. 8-13.

The Canadian province of Alberta contains deposits of bitumen, known as tar sands that underlie about 140,000 square kilometers of northern forest. The deposits are believed to contain about 1.7 trillion barrels of crude bitumen. When the U.S. Department of Energy officially acknowledged these reserves in 2003, it vaulted Canada's oil reserves to second-largest in the world. However, producing oil from the tar sands is "scraping the bottom of the oil barrel" – the environmental costs of extracting the bitumen are tremendous. Thousands of square kilometers of forest have to be cleared away to gain access to the deposits, and large quantities of fresh water and natural gas are needed to produce steam heat to melt the bitumen from the silt. The waste-water from this process cannot be discharged back to its source, so it accumulates in vast impoundments. Canada is not meeting its Kyoto emissions reduction goals due to the tar sands operations. As oil prices have soared, the author notes that the rush is on to expand tar sands production as rapidly as possible. He warns that the environmental risks associated with this are "unprecedented in the history of North American energy production;" Canada and the U.S. need to greatly improve vehicle fuel efficiency, in order to ease demand for transportation fuels.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

19. COUNTERING THE MANPADS THREAT: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

By Matt Schroeder. *Arms Control Today*, v. 37, no. 7, September 2007, pp. 6-11.

http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2007_09/CoverStory.asp

This article describes U.S. efforts to counter the threat from man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) with respect to export controls, stockpile security and destruction, and weapons collection. Schroeder, who is manager of the Arms Control Monitoring Project at the Federation of American Scientists, says U.S. State and Defense Department teams and special intelligence units have secured or destroyed thousands of surplus or poorly secured MANPADS, collected hundreds of missiles from black markets, and "established global norms and standards on the export of MANPADS that are unprecedented in their scope and specificity." He suggests that it may be a good idea to install some anti-missile systems selectively on aircraft that are especially vulnerable to MANPADS "but only if doing so does not divert resources from other more cost-effective counter-MANPADS initiatives." Schroeder also recommends that MANPADS-producing nations should install launch-control devices on them while warning, at the same time, that doing so is not a panacea.

20. DARK POWER: GLOBALIZATION, INEQUALITY, AND CONFLICT

By Charles S. Maier. *Harvard International Review*, v. 29, no. 1, Spring 2007, pp. 60-65.

Charles Maier argues that the notion of power as possessed by nation-states is evaporating, and that we can no longer analyze international relations based upon a balance of power. Although the U.S. now holds the majority of military power, these resources clearly have limits. International institutions, such as the United Nations and the International Court of Justice, should not be viewed as constraints on American power, but as facilitators of U.S. influence.

21. RETHINKING TRANSNATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM: BEYOND A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

By Jeremy Pressman. *The Washington Quarterly*, v. 30, no. 4, Autumn 2007, pp. 63-73.

There continues to be considerable confusion between transnational terrorist groups like al-Qaida and others like Hezbollah, whose

objectives are largely national in scope. The author notes that when policymakers have talked about terrorist organizations other than al-Qaida, they tend to blur the line between those groups that largely confine their activities to within national boundaries and those with global or strategic objectives. The significance for policymakers is that actions such as sanctions or deterrence which may work well against a national terrorist group may have little or no impact on transnational groups. "The distinction between national and transnational terrorist groups largely stems from a fundamental difference in geographic scope: transnational terrorist objectives are not tied to a single state," he writes. Relying on the wrong counterterrorism policies could do more than thwart success; it could exacerbate the threat.

22. THE VIRTUES AND VICES OF FIXED TERRITORIAL OWNERSHIP

By Boaz Atzili. *SAIS Review*, v. 27, no. 2, Summer-Fall 2007, pp. 95-108.

Atzili asserts that territorial conquest and land grabs, the stuff of most history, seem no longer acceptable. Other countries have refused for decades to recognize forceful takeovers of land by Israel, Turkey, and Armenia; Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was repulsed. Fixed territories have contributed to peace and stability in North and South America, and most of Europe and North Asia. People in these regions already strongly identify with their nation-state, and therefore the countries need not find external threats to unify their people. In contrast, those living in socio-politically unstable regions – the Middle East, Africa, the Balkans, Central America, and parts of Asia and the former Soviet Union – are less likely to identify with the nation-state. Having fixed borders in these countries can perpetuate state weakness "because it deprives the state of a key factor that historically motivated state building: the external threat to state borders and state survival."

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

23. ONE SUN IN THE SKY: LABOR UNIONS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

By Jehangir S. Posha. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, v. 8, no. 1, Winter/Spring 2007, pp. 5-11.

The author quotes an old Chinese proverb which says that there cannot be two suns in the sky, meaning that there can be only one source

of power in the land. This idea supports the Chinese Communist Party's fierce opposition to any leadership or organization in China other than itself. China's recent economic growth has been supported by five basic principles – cheap labor, market reforms, disdain for intellectual property rights, disregard for the environment, and cheap capital from state-controlled banks. Market forces and international pressure have greatly reduced all of these except the "cheap and disempowered labor force," making it the country's last remaining competitive advantage. While the government has pressured some companies to pay back-wages, it has not made any meaningful structural improvements to China's labor laws. The major avenue of help for workers is the ability to sue companies for compensation. The author says that the West has remained largely silent about workers' rights because benefits to Western Companies from the low wages, and the fear that trade unions might create political instability and the "global consensus that a gradually reformed China tomorrow is preferable to a politically unstable China today."

24. PERCEPTIONS OF FEDERAL AID IMPACTS ON STATE AGENCIES: PATTERNS, TRENDS, AND VARIATIONS ACROSS THE 20TH CENTURY

By Chung-Lae Cho and Deil S. Wright. *Publius*, v. 37, no. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 103-130.

The authors examine views of state government executives on federal aid with a focus on the relationship between the federal government and the states. The period of the study's coverage ranges from the 1920s to 2004, during which federal aid to the states grew tremendously, encompassing some 3,000 state agencies in all fifty states. Although some state officials expressed concern about the intrusiveness of the federal government that can accompany this assistance, their views tend to fluctuate through the years, with some seeing a centralized national trend as a positive development. Overall, however, the states have managed to maintain autonomy, even with constant changes in the federal-state relationship, and no doubt it will continue to evolve.

25. WHEN CONGRESS STOPS WARS

By William G. Howell and Jon C. Pevehouse. *Foreign Affairs*, v. 86, no. 5, September-October 2007, p. 95.

Howell and Pevehouse find little truth to the maxim that politics stops at the water's edge. The spirit of national unity in the United States during World War II was the exception, not the rule – in fact, every foreign military action taken by U.S. presidents has roused partisan congressional resistance. When the opposition party has a

strong presence in Congress, wars are scrutinized more intensely in oversight hearings and restricted by legislation. While presidents have the strong advantage of commanding military forces, Congress has a strong advantage over time in shaping public opinion about foreign wars because of its influence in shaping news reporting about those wars.

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

26. THE CAN-DO CONGRESS?

By Jim Motavalli. *E : the Environmental Magazine*, v. 18, no. 3, May/June 2007, pp. 34-39.

The Democrats have introduced a flood of climate change and energy legislation during the current session of Congress. Motavalli reviews the pros and cons of each. All claim to reduce fossil fuel dependence and greenhouse gas emissions. Clean energy advocates and environmental groups see this as the best opportunity in many years to influence climate change legislation. But passage of any new laws is uncertain – the U.S. energy industry has more coal-fired plants on the drawing board than at any previous time. Major concerns about the effects of emissions reductions on the economy mean that any climate legislation will be challenged from inside and outside the Congress. One likely piece of legislation to be enacted will be new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards which would raise the fuel economy of vehicles. The standard has not changed in 20 years despite new technologies and would be easier for Congress to pass than other bills. A sidebar notes that Congress has begun a big push on other environmental legislation including wildlife refuges, clean water management and reducing chemical exposure.

27. DISTORTED PICTURE

By Sherry Ricchiardi. *American Journalism Review*, v. 29, no. 4, August/September 2007, pp. 36-43.

Affordable and user-friendly, the photo-editing computer program Adobe Photoshop makes it easy to manipulate photographs, and the increasing misuse of the technology poses a serious threat to photo-journalism's credibility, says the author. A number of trends are leading to a greater likelihood of using altered photo images. Staff cutbacks require news organizations to rely on long-distance freelancers, who are largely free of newsroom accountability; competition for

newspaper space increases pressure for dramatic images; and digital photography leaves no original negatives with which to compare an image. Doctoring photos – either to deceive the viewer or enhance the image's esthetics – has been around since the advent of photography, but the thorny issue remains of defining the limits of what is and is not acceptable. So far, there is no fast and effective software to detect altered images – a major problem for AP, which receives between 2,000 and 3,000 photographs each day. In the meantime, viewers will have to accept that "seeing is not believing."

28. NATURAL BABY, TOXIC WORLD

By Brita Belli. *E : the Environmental Magazine*, v. 18, no. 3, May/June 2007, pp. 27-33.

Belli, managing editor of *E Magazine*, reports on efforts by U.S. parents to reduce their infants' chemical exposure and reduce landfill waste created by disposable diapers. By using "attachment parenting", babies are carried physically close to their parents and breast-fed. Attuned parents need less baby gear, such as mattresses treated with flame retardant, do not use formula and in some cases, can give up diapers by anticipating their child's hygiene needs. For those who cannot master diaper-free babies, several diaper products have come on the market that use fewer chemicals. There is a new diaper that is completely biodegradable. Belli notes the explosion of new organic baby foods and products designed to help parents make their own baby food. She also points out ways to remove toxins within the home. A side bar reports on the use in plastic toys of phthalates, a commonly-used group of organic compounds that are known to be carcinogenic, and some recent government efforts to regulate their use.

GLOBAL ISSUES

29. THE AMAZING ALBATROSSES

By Kennedy Warne. *Smithsonian*, v. 38, no. 6, September 2007, pp. 46-54.
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/specialsections/ecocenter/alba.html>

Samuel Taylor Coleridge made the albatross iconic of humanity's relationship to other creatures of the natural world in "Rime of the Ancient Mariner." The work seems prescient when considered in context of the efforts today to save this remarkable creature. The albatross can fly 50 miles per hour, mates for life, and is among the largest of seabirds. While seamen have long observed those traits,

scientists are now discovering that the birds seem to predict the weather and adjust their flight plans accordingly. The creature's ability to travel the world's oceans and return to its birthplace for breeding makes scientists believe the albatross has navigational skills somehow attuned to the Earth's magnetic fields. But 10 of the 12 species of this bird are endangered, and ornithologists are advocating new policies and practices to protect them. Some New Zealand commercial fishermen are adopting "seabird-smart fishing" techniques. The birds are frequently killed as they swoop around the boats to feed, so fishing fleets are changing their techniques to prevent bait and waste from surrounding the ships and luring the birds to their deaths.

30. FOREST CERTIFICATION IN DEVELOPING AND TRANSITIONING COUNTRIES: PART OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?

By Benjamin Cashore, et al. *Environment*, v. 48, no. 9, November 2006, pp. 6-25.

Inadequate governmental responses to the severe challenges of global forest management prompted leading environmental groups to sidestep governments and found the Forest Stewardship Council in 1993. The goal was to turn to the marketplace to generate incentives to establish sustainable forestry principles; however, most of the support for, and successes in, the forest certification program has been in North America and Europe. Tremendous obstacles remain in most of the developing world, including weak central governments, lack of oversight, and entrenched local interests. The authors note some success stories in a number of countries that have adopted some aspects of the certification process, including improved market access for wood products and higher prices than could be obtained by illegal logging.

31. AN INCONVENIENT EXPERT

By Juliet Eilperin. *Outside*, v. 32, no. 10, October 2007, p. 140.
<http://outside.away.com/outside/culture/200710/richard-lindzen-1.html>

Massachusetts Institute of Technology climatologist Richard Lindzen is one of a small number of climate scientists who are promoting the controversial idea that human activities are not to blame for global warming. Lindzen notes that periods of warming have occurred in previous centuries, prior to the modern industrial age, and that we cannot know what the future holds, because science is only beginning to analyze the more complex responses to climate change. Lindzen, who has an avowedly contrarian streak, is a favorite of conservative and private-sector groups with an anti-global-warming agenda. While he does not advocate for them, many of

his scientific colleagues have been dismayed at his role in enabling pressure groups to sow confusion. The author notes that Lindzen does not dispute that global warming is taking place, but he diverges from the majority of the scientific community in the sense of urgency – whether climate change is a pressing problem, or whether humanity can adapt to it over the long run. Eilperin notes, however, that "while Lindzen and his allies are competitive in the marketplace of ideas, they're losing in America's cloakrooms and boardrooms" – the Democratic-controlled Congress is preparing legislation to place a cap on carbon-dioxide emissions, and many corporate leaders are seeing the wisdom in CO2-mitigation strategies.

32. SOLAR ELECTRICITY FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD

By Walt Ratterman. *Home Power*, no. 119, June & July 2007, pp. 96-100.

The author, with the Oregon-based SunEnergy Power Corp. and a veteran of overseas solar installation projects, writes that installing solar-electric systems in developing-nation communities is as much about "training yourself" as it is about training others, and is fundamentally about helping local villagers improve their lives in a manner in which they choose. He notes that before any hardware is installed, his group first travels to a village to teach the residents the basics of energy management and to develop an energy budget. Training villagers to troubleshoot and repair the systems, and fostering a sense of ownership, to include fiscal management strategies is vital. The article illustrates projects installed in India, the tribal areas of Pakistan, Ecuador, Peru, Rwanda and the Thailand-Burma border areas.

U.S. SOCIETY, VALUES & POLITICS

33. BACK TO THE FUTURE: RELIGION, POLITICS, AND THE MEDIA

By Diane H. Winston. *American Quarterly*, v. 59, no. 3, September 2007, pp. 969-989.

The author believes that since 2000, many American journalists have had a "come to Jesus" experience. Spurred by the rise of increasingly politicized religion and religious politics, they have rediscovered the role of religion in public life. But is this current fascination only the latest two-step in a longstanding dance? When New England's earliest colonists began circulating news of important events, they framed their stories with a religious perspective: divine providence played a decisive role in covering and interpreting everyday occurrences. Since then, religion has continued to play an important role in the

both the news media and in the news narratives that helped shape Americans' self-understanding. The author examines the religious catchphrases of the "beloved community" and the "promised land" that continue to dominate media coverage of American politics. Focusing on the twentieth century, she explores how the mainstream media's hostility to religious conservatism has changed, and why progressive religious politics are rarely covered.

34. GOODBYE TO ALL THAT

By Steve Wasserman. Columbia Journalism Review, v. 46, no. 3. September/October 2007, pp. 43-53.

While American newspapers have reduced the resources and page space for book reviews, the decline is not altogether recent and there was no "golden age" of book reviewing in the American broadsheet. While many attribute the decline to book sections' failure to generate sufficient advertising revenue, sports and other newspaper sections are not expected to serve as profit centers. Newspapers have in any case failed to exploit the commercial possibilities of reaching their most affluent, educated subscribers through book coverage. The real problem is "the anti-intellectual ethos in the nation's newsrooms."

35. HOME-FRONT ECOLOGY: WHAT OUR GRANDPARENTS CAN TEACH US ABOUT SAVING THE WORLD

By Mike Davis. Sierra, v. 92, no. 4, July/August 2007, pp. 52-55, 71.

"Does this generation of Americans have the 'right stuff' to meet the epic challenges of sustaining life on a rapidly warming planet?" The author writes that, in spite of growing concern over energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, Americans own bigger houses and cars, and are consuming more energy and resources than ever. But, Davis notes, a "surprisingly hopeful answer ... to whether Americans would ever voluntarily give up their SUVs and McMansions ... lies in living memory" – during World War II, the U.S. embarked on a nationwide campaign to aid the war effort by conservation, home gardening and reducing waste. Americans by the millions tore up their lawns and planted vegetable gardens, recycled scrap metal, old tires and cooking grease, bicycled or carpooled instead of driving alone, or mended clothes instead of shopping compulsively. Journalists of the time noted that the slower pace of life during the war was restoring a sense of community that the automobile culture had begun to erode earlier – and, Davis notes, would erode since, in the postwar euphoria of abundance. He takes hope that, "even a few short generations later, we can find inspirations and essential survival

skills in that brief age of victory gardens and happy hitchhikers."

36. MEMORY IS A SHIELD: A CONVERSATION WITH ELIE WIESEL

By Daniel Greene. Museum News, v. 86, no. 4, July/August 2007, pp. 36-41.

Although many people have written about the Holocaust, few have done so with the poignancy of Elie Wiesel. Wiesel was fifteen years old when he was deported to Auschwitz; he survived the Holocaust to offer testimony about its horrors to a world that did not always want to remember. In 1978, Wiesel was asked by U.S. president Jimmy Carter to head his Presidential Commission on the Holocaust, a group later known as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. The group visited former concentration camps, met with European officials to ask for records pertaining to Holocaust victims, and was responsible for the creation of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. In 1986, for his work on behalf of victims everywhere, Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. This discussion between Wiesel and Daniel Greene, historian at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), took place as part of the Museum's podcast series "Voices on Antisemitism", to raise public awareness about threats of prejudice and hatred. In his remarks, Wiesel talked about contemporary anti-semitism, memory and the role of museums in remembering tragedy, especially at USHMM, where Wiesel hopes that "anyone who enters the museum does not come out of it the same person."

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

37. CHRONICLING THE ICE

By J. Madeleine Nash. Smithsonian, v. 38, no. 4, July 2007, pp. 66-74.
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/10024686.html>

Glaciologist Lonnie Thompson has been studying ice cores from mountain glaciers for more than 30 years, long before the public or policymakers learned the term "global warming." But the Ohio State University professor has been able to read the ice cores to create new insights into atmospheric composition and weather patterns from millennia past. He has found how the glaciers contribute to global weather patterns and provide a natural mechanism for neutralizing carbon in the atmosphere. Thompson, a 2006 winner of the National Medal of Science, has also found correlations between what the ice reveals about weather conditions and aberrations of the past

and the downfall and what historians know about the disappearance of once-flourishing civilizations.

38. FUTURE FARMING: A RETURN TO ROOTS?

By Jerry D. Glover, Cindy M. Cox and John P. Reganold. Scientific American, v. 297, no. 2, August 2007, pp. 82-89.

Cereal grains, legumes and oilseed crops occupy 80 percent of global agricultural land and provide most food for humans. Grown annually from seeds, these crops have shallow root systems and require frequent and expensive care. In contrast, perennial species of these plants have much deeper root systems that make the plants highly productive for years and are critical to water, carbon and nitrogen cycling in the ecosystem. The authors, researchers in sustainable agriculture, detail the research needed to develop perennial crop species through domestication of wild plants or hybridization of annual crops with their wild relatives. Acknowledging that it will be decades before perennial grain crops are widely available, the authors argue that a transition to growing these varieties would reduce herbicide use, reduce farm machinery fossil-fuel use, improve soil quality, increase biodiversity, and allow marginal land to be cultivated sustainably to meet projected food needs as the global human population increases.

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